



Ø BEAT

COLORADO SPRINGS,
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JANUARY 1984

The Facts About Volunteer Testing!

FINAL RULING — VOLUNTEER HAM TESTING

From W5YI Report, October 15, 1983

The **Report and Order** covering the FCC decision to allow the use of volunteers to prepare and administer operator examinations in the Amateur Radio Service (Docket #83-27) has been received since our last issue. It ran to some 27 single-spaced typewritten pages. We will try to **capsulize the contents** for you.

PROPOSAL — The FCC proposed to use questions submitted by ham operators and organizations to create pools of test questions. The questions would be based on the FCC study guide. The NPRM suggested that selected test administrators (called Volunteer Examination Coordinators or VECs) act as a managerial level between the testing and license issuance function. The ham exams would be given by three VEC accredited volunteer amateurs — one of which would be 'team chief' and hold an Extra Class license. The FCC would issue amateur licenses based on the recommendations of the VEC. The proposal was ultimately **adopted on September 22, 1983**, but there were several modifications.

PUBLIC COMMENTS — More than 100 comments by individuals and organizations were filed in response to the NPRM including many ham groups and license study material publishers . . . (such as Ameco Publishing, the ARRL and Bash Educational Services.) Those in favor cited a **need for additional examinations** — those opposed **feared testing fraud and abuse** which would lead to a reduction in operator quality and ham radio's traditional status.

SUMMARY OF FCC DECISION . . .

Volunteer Examiners — The FCC refused to change their original three examiner proposal "to assure proper completion of license applications and to minimize the

likelihood of any possible fraud or abuse." They did, however, eliminate the necessity of one of the three examiners holding an Extra Class license when the Element 3 (Tech/General Class) written theory exam is given. Teams of **three Advanced Class** examiners will be permitted to administer Element 3. **Three Extra Class licensees** are required for giving Advanced, Extra-Class written and code tests and the **General (13 wpm) code test**.

Rather than have a 'team chief' (who would be responsible for retaining test answer sheets), the Commission agreed to allow the VEC to act as an "examination answer sheet repository."

Even though the Dick Bash comments felt that there would not be enough volunteer examiners, the FCC disagreed . . . "thousands of amateur radio clubs meet regularly nationwide," they said, "and a crowded calendar of hamfests and conventions spans the entire year . . . We expect that such forums will play a significant and consistent role in providing opportunities for large numbers of willing volunteers to step forward and assist others in the amateur community seeking to advance themselves."

Conflict of Interest Provisions — The ARRL sought a clarification on what would constitute volunteer examiner conflict of interest. The FCC said that manufacturers of **electrical parts for many purposes** and employees of ham equipment firms that **work in a different division** would **not** be excluded from the ham testing function. General education texts would not constitute ham radio study material and therefore their employees would **not** be eliminated either.

Finally, membership in the ARRL, a radio club or other organization does **not** create a conflict of interest position for a prospective volunteer examiner, the FCC

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ZERO BEAT is published monthly in the interest of the the members of the Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association Inc., Colorado Springs, Colorado. Permission is given to reprint articles or excerpts provided credit is given. Deadline for submission of articles is the 21st of the month. Classifieds accepted anytime.

The Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association meets on the second Wednesday of each month at the Palmer House Motel, I-25 and Fillmore, at 7:30 p.m. All amateurs and interested parties are invited to attend.

Editor: Don Lohse KBØKQ, 1410 E. LaSalle, Colorado Springs, CO 80907 635-7469.

MEETING MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association was called to order at 7:31 p.m. December 14, 1983. Seventy members and guests were present.

Les, KCØNC, reported treasury income of \$233.50 and expenses of \$59.66 leaving a balance of \$2699.28. Minutes of the previous meeting were corrected to show a treasury balance of \$2525.44. The minutes were then approved. It was also announced that the Colorado Council of Amateur Radio Clubs would hold their meeting in Colorado Springs March 17, 1984.

Frank, KL7IPV, presented the proposal for a repeater as presented in O Beat and it was seconded. Bill, KQØH, moved to amend the proposal so that it would include costs of the repeater both initially and for upkeep. The amendments was seconded. After a brief discussion, Doug, WBØMHP, moved to table all motions. After a second, this motion passed 26-12. Doug then moved to continue discussion on the original proposal and to not reaccept the motion will costs are included. He withdrew this motion for purposes of an open discussion.

After lengthy discussion, a committee was appointed to consider questions concerning the repeater and report back at the next meeting. Members include: Frank as chairman, Malcom, Don, Leo, Doc, and Bud.

Prizes for homebrew night were awarded to: Les — first place for 13.5 volt power supply and IComm power supply; Dave — second place for an antenna tuner.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m. The next meeting will be January 11, 1984 at the Palmer House.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark, NØEPF, Secretary

NEW FCC FORMS

Effective January 3, 1984, antenna data collected on FCC Forms 714 and 610 (question 9) will be eliminated. Amateur Radio operators who propose antennas exceeding the Commission standards will have to submit Form 854 to the FCC Field Operations Bureau's Antenna Survey Branch, Washington, DC 20554. The new forms are available from the FCC Consumer Assistance Branch, Gettysburg, PA 17325, any District Office, or ARRL Hq.

MEETING NOTICE

The January meeting of the Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association will be held on January 11 at 7:30 p.m. at the Palmer House Motel on N. Chestnut Street (just north of I-25 and Fillmore.) The program is scheduled to cover solid state devices. There will be some further discussion of the repeater motion, with a report from the study committee.

All members and other interested persons are encouraged to attend.

TRADE — 74 Honda C8 350 w/ new engine & chain - trade for Icom 701. KDØLD Tim, 390-6087.

WANTED Six meter antenna — beam or vertical. Will trade or sell non working Yaesu FT207R 2M HT. Al NØCMW 473-1660.

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RED CROSS CLASSES

Since it appears that the PPRAA is going to try and work more closely with the Red Cross, we publish these class listings for members who would be interested in increasing their emergency preparedness.

The Red Cross is offering the following courses. They will be held at the Red Cross building, 1600 N. Cascade. To reserve a space in a class, please call the Red Cross at 632-3563, Monday — Friday 8:30 and 4:30. The classes are filled on a first come first served basis.

Multimedia Standard First Aid — January 30 and February 1 (2 nights) 6-10 p.m. Fee \$8.00

CPR January 23, 25, 30, and February 1 (4 nights) 7-10 p.m.

Advanced First Aid — February 7 — April 12, Tuesday and Thursday nights for 10 weeks, 7-10 p.m. Fee \$20.00.

COURSE TITLE/DESCRIPTION

MULTIMEDIA STANDARD FIRST AID 8 HRS.

Includes: Splinting Fractures/Artificial Respiration/Shock/Wounds/Burns/Internal Injury/Infection/Heart Attack/Epilepsy/Animal Bites/Effects of Heat and Cold/Poisoning/Transfer and Rescue/Bandaging.

STANDARD FIRST AID LECTURE METHOD 14 HRS.

Includes: Shock/Artificial Respiration/Wounds/Poisoning/Specific Injuries/Drugs/Burns/Cold Exposure/Heat Stroke/Sudden Illness/Dressing & Bandages/Bone & Joint Injuries/Emergency Rescue & Transfer.

ADVANCED FIRST AID 60 HRS.

Includes: Wounds/Poisoning/Head Injuries/Specific Injuries of Extremities/Drowning/Drugs/Bandaging/Burns/Cold and Heat Injuries/Specific Fractures/Bone & Joint Injuries/Sudden Illness/Emergency Childbirth/Auto Extrication/Emergency

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VITAL SIGNS II 3 HRS.

Taking of Blood Pressure

Volunteer Testing (cont.)

ruled. However, since the ARRL is also engaged in the business of preparing and distributing publications used in preparation for obtaining an amateur station operator license, "Any employee engaged in that portion of ARRL's business relating to such publishing would also be prohibited from administering an examination as a volunteer." The Commission said that ARRL employees that do "not normally communicate with employees engaged in the ARRL's publishing business" would be acceptable volunteer examiners.

Fees — Volunteer examiners would not be permitted to charge directly or indirectly for their services. "... volunteer examiners have no authority to require any remuneration for the preparation or administration of amateur radio operator examinations," the FCC Order clearly reads. In a different section of the Order, the FCC said that VECs may not collect any money to assist volunteer examiners. (Editors Note: This section has been changed to allow VEC's to recover out of pocket expenses.)

Public Announcements of Examinations — To assure the broadest ham candidate participation and the fairest administration of examinations, the FCC added rules requiring the volunteer examiners to make public announcement of a forthcoming examination. In addition, VECs will be required to notify local FCC District Offices 30 days in advance of any tests in areas within their jurisdiction.

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Volunteer Testing (cont.)

Telegraphy Examinations — Both Morse Code sending and receiving tests are required. You must "receive correctly by ear texts in the International Morse Code at not less than the prescribed speed for one continuous minute during a five-minute test period." Examination credit certificates (valid for one year) will be issued to applicants who pass the code test but fail the written portion.

Failed Examination Procedure — The candidate will be informed only of the test score. The application (Form 610) and test papers will be forwarded to the VEC by the examination team. Candidates must wait 30 days before taking the same element again.

Administrative Sanctions — No amateur volunteer may be an examiner if he/she has ever had his operator license revoked or suspended. Any volunteer examiner that participates in a fraudulent examination or who accepts payment for preparing or administering an amateur radio operator license faces revocation of his/her station license and the suspension of the operator license.

Volunteer Examiner — Coordinators, VECs — The FCC said that Public Law 97-259 clearly indicates that organizations as well as individuals could be VECs. VECs may not be involved in both the preparation and administration of examinations. Where an organization (such as the ARRL) also has publishing interests "preventative measures must be taken to preclude any conflict of interest... such as creation of a subsidiary... strict prohibition of 'cross-line' communications... or creation of separate management lines... between publishing interests and VEC operations."

To "generate sufficient interest in the VEC function" the FCC changed its original concept of national VECs to those that may be regional in scope. The regions to coincide with the 13 U.S. amateur call sign district areas. (One through zero plus Caribbean, Pacific and Alaska.) A VEC can serve one or more (or all) regions and may not recover out-of-pocket expenses. *Ed. Note: There have been changes in the rules concerning recovery of out of pocket expenses by examiners. Final changes are still being made. VECs must assemble, print and distribute written examinations designed by the FCC at their own cost.*

VECs are permitted to establish deadlines for candidates to submit applications for examinations. The ARRL had contended that a cut-off was necessary to keep expenses down and to anticipate the size of the examination session and the amount of testing materials required.

Successful applications (Form 610 of Technician and higher classes) must be forwarded to Gettysburg by the VEC within 10 days of examination. No candidate for an amateur examination (nor a volunteer examiner) can be refused on the basis of "race, sex, religion, national origin or membership (or lack thereof) in any amateur radio organization."

A VEC is expected to evaluate the clarity and accuracy of test questions and bring discrepancies with recommendations to the attention of the Commission. **Interim Amateur Permits** — Volunteer examiners can issue "instant upgrade certificates" to successful candidates to use for a period of 90 days. A VEC must establish a unique identifier code for each testing session. This code must be a slant (/) followed by two

letters from one of the following letter groups: WA through WZ, KA through KZ, NA through NZ, or AA through AL.

The identifier code must be shown on the certificate for successful completion of an examination. The identifier code(s) application must be appended as a suffix to the licensee's call sign when the licensee operates under temporary authority granted to amateur radio operators who have passed the appropriate examination(s) for a higher class.

FCC Testing — In order to insure the integrity of the volunteer examination program, the FCC will retain the right to prepare and administer amateur radio operator license examinations itself. Furthermore, to guarantee against fraud or abuse, the FCC reserves the right to retest any volunteer program tested person.

Phase In of Examinations — The FCC will first implement the use of volunteers to give all telegraphy examinations and Element 3, Technician and General Class written tests. Advanced and Extra Class written tests will be implemented later.

BOARD MINUTES

The Board Meeting of the Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association was called to order at 7:40 p.m. December 19, 1983 in the home of Frank, KI7IPV. Present were Frank, Joe NØENM, Al NØCMW, Les KCØNC, Mark NØEPF, Jake NØCYR, Dave NØDV, and Charlie KCØTI.

First on the agenda was review of the club equipment inventory. Many items appeared to be in need of repair. The need for one storage location was again discussed.

The Swapfest on April 15 is quickly turning into a hamfest. The committee is to explore the possibility of obtaining a larger site and making the event a two-day affair. An admission charge was also discussed. The next committee meeting will be January 6th at Dave's home.

Les moved, Joe seconded, that the hamfest committee

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Same as above w/ voice synthesiser \$589.
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Tokyo Hi Power 32V 2/30 watt 2 mtr FM 55B amp \$74.
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Kenwood TS 130V 25W Xcvt. \$250.
Kenwood TS 520S - Exc. Condition \$425.
Kenwood TR 7400A - Good condition \$155.
Kenwood TR 7400A w/scanner \$175.
KDK 2025 w/TTM - Mint \$175.
Azden PCS 2000 excellent condition w/TTM \$175.
Midland 13-510 1 & 25 watt 2 meter mobile \$150.
KLM 30/140W 2 meter amp \$85.
KLM 2/70W 2 meter amp \$85.
Palomar 300 80-10 mtr. 150W amp. 10-25W drive \$50.
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Heath SB 201 1200W - Mint \$275.
Heath SB 104A - Mint \$225.
Heath SB 644 ext. VFO \$50.
Heath Phone Patch w/VU meter \$29.
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Galaxy DC1000 mobile power supply \$25.
Collins crystal pack — 117 crystals in plastic pouch \$150.
Dentron GLA 1000 1.2 kw PEP amp \$220.
Homebrew amp-kw-4 811-A's, heavy duty supply \$150.
National NC 300 recvr. w/calibrator-Mint \$125.
Military rcvr. 2-18 MHz, works good \$35.
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PS for Atlas \$60.
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Additional Names _____ Calls _____

Associate Member \$8.00 ☐ (Outside Teller & El Paso Counties.)

Board Minutes (cont.)

be allocated a budget of \$200. The motion passed unanimously.

More comments were offered for the repeater committee. The committee will meet January 10th at Frank's home. Results will be presented at the regular meeting.

Frank has also agreed to take over the duties of Ø Beat editor. Some discussion centered on whether the position should be more of one requiring the obtaining of articles, arranging a calendar, and obtaining advertising.

Charlie has indicated he will resign because of personal conflicts. A special election will be held at the January meeting.

A motion was made to recommend Bill KQØH, as a Board member nominee. The motion passed 6-1 with 1 abstention. Other nominations will be accepted from the floor.

Frank and Paul WDØCGN will begin teaching upgrade classes in January. Classes will be Wednesday nights from 7 to 9 p.m. except on meeting nights. Contact Frank or Mark, NØEPF, to register.

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 9:23 p.m. The next meeting will be January 16th, 1984, at the home of Les.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mark NØEPF

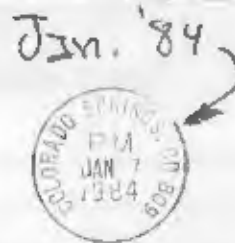


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